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SOURCE: Newspapers as indicated.

UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF LAKE SKADAR -- Borba, No 154, 30 Jun 49

Although the Albanian government in March 1949 refused the Yugoslav proposal for the joint reclamation of the Lake Skadar basin by the two countries, with Yugoslavia providing most of the facilities, the Yugoslav Federal Planning Commission has decreed that Yugoslav reclamation work on the project shall begin by 1 August.

The most natural and easy method would have been to lower the level of Lake Skadar by regulating the Bojana and Drim rivers. This would have involved the least expenditure of time and money, and all previous plans for this project have been based on this method. However, the key to this method is the net of waterways converging at Shkoder, which is in Albanian territory.

The only alternative is to drain the Yugoslav parts of the basin, to build a levee to protect Yugoslav farmland from floods, and to drain part of the lake itself. Thousands of hectares of land would thus be made available for the culture of cotton and Mediterranean crops. To do this without raising the level of the lake and thus aggravating flood conditions on the Albanian side poses grave problems.

To solve these problems, a tunnel will be built to carry the excess water through the intervening mountain to the Adriatic.

Examination of the terrain and research on this new project began when the Albanian government withdrew from the agreement. The engineers came to the conclusion that building a single levee would result in disastrous floods along the entire embankment in case of an unusual rise in the water level, and cultivation could not be undertaken at any point until the entire levee was completed. Instead, a series of four shorter levees will be built. As soon as finished, the land protected by it will be ready for cultivation.

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A total area of over 22,000 hectares will be reclaimed for cultivation, and 83 kilometers of levee of a maximum height of 4.5 meters will be built. The levees to be put up along the Moraca River will carry a railroad line and the Titograd-Vir Pazar-Bar highway. The tunnel from Crmnica Polje under Mount Sosina to the sea at Sutomore, near Bar, will be the longest tunnel in Yugoslavia. Its construction will be combined with the building of a railroad tunnel. The reclamation tunnel can also be used for water transportation.

Research has shown that the land to be reclaimed from Lake Skadar is fertile and suitable for growing cotton, rice, vegetables, industrial and fodder plants, subtropical fruits, and other crops.

Before the construction of the levee and the digging of the tunnel begin on 1 August, further preliminary explorations must be made, warehouses and workers' housing built, a drinking water supply provided, and machinery and transport facilities procured.

RECLAMATION IN THE BARANJA -- Rad, No 155, 1 Jul 49

Osijek -- On 4 July the reclamation of the Belje-Kopacevo Rit, a part of the "Belje" State Farm in the Baranja, will begin. After the construction of the levees, 9,650 hectares of new land will be available for cultivation. The project includes the construction of a 28-kilometer protective levee, 7 watchman's huts, a 28-kilometer telephone line, a 76-kilometer drainage canal, 6 concrete bridges, 6 dams, and pumping stations at Podravlje and Holovo.

Volunteers from the People's Front will build 10 kilometers of levee, 3 1/2 kilometers of which will be finished this year.

The reclamation of the Rit will yield a large area for growing vegetable crops for the Osijek market, while Kopacko Jezero (Lake) will provide a year-round source of fish for the city.

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